

Committee on Equal Opportunities Report

The Committee on Equal Opportunities met in retreat Sunday and Monday, August 13-14, 2006, in Lexington, Kentucky. The following is a summary of the retreat discussions, recurring activities related to the implementation of the Kentucky Plan for Equal Opportunities, the partnership with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, and the statewide diversity study initiative.

- The committee met in retreat to discuss the issues related to the changing role of the CEO, the effectiveness of the CEO, the partnership with the OCR, the need for diversity planning in Kentucky, and reconfiguration of the campus visit.
- The committee heard information regarding the need to revise the request for proposals to conduct and implement a statewide diversity plan and reaffirmed that the Commonwealth should conduct a statewide study of diversity and implement diversity planning immediately following release by the Office for Civil Rights. The revised schedule anticipates beginning in December 2006 with a November 2007 completion.
- The committee determined that the campus visit process should be critiqued after each visit to continue to fine tune the assessment and accountability value of the exercise and ensure that both the Commonwealth and the institution benefit from the experience. Thus, the CEO revised its aggressive community and technical college campus visit schedule. The committee will conduct a campus visit at Jefferson Community and Technical College Friday, September 29, 2006.
- Following the retreat the committee received a report that the Governor reappointed KSU regent Laura Douglas to a new term ending in 2012. This responds to the CEO recommendation that the Governor and the Postsecondary Education Nominating Committee make strengthening board leadership a priority for new appointments and conform to the commitment of the Commonwealth in its partnership with the Office for Civil Rights.